In the Claims

Claims are amended as follows:

1. (currently amended)   A method of adapting a routing algorithm used by a call server ~~connected to a communications network~~ for establishing a call connection across a packet network linking a first time division multiplexed (TDM) network to a second TDM network comprising the steps of:

detecting a change in at least one condition of the ~~communications~~ packet network;

analyzing the change to determine whether the routing algorithm requires adaptation to accommodate said change;

and, in the case of the routing algorithm requiring adaptation,

providing an indication of the required adaptation to the call server; and

receiving the indication at the call server and adapting the routing algorithm used by the call server in response to said indication.

2. (original)   A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein in the step of providing an indication of the required adaptation, the indication provides an indication of at least one rule governing the routing algorithm which is to be adapted.

3. (currently amended)   A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein in the step of analyzing the change in condition, ~~the~~ a change in the level of congestion over the network is analyzed.

4. (currently amended)   A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein in the step of analyzing the change in condition, ~~the~~ a change in the topology of the network is analyzed.

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5. (currently amended)   A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein in the step of analyzing the change in condition, ~~the~~ a change in ~~the~~ available bandwidth over at least a portion of the network is analyzed.

6. (original) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the step of analyzing said change is performed and the step of providing the indication occur dynamically.

7. (currently amended)   A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the step of analyzing said change includes assessing ~~the~~ an impact of the change in the at least one condition on a future condition of the network.

8. (original) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least one condition occurs on the packet backbone of the communications network.

9. (original) A method as claimed in claim1, wherein the method enables the call server to use available network resource more efficiently.

10. (currently amended)   A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein in the step of detecting a change in the condition of the communications network, ~~the~~ a type of traffic data affected is determined, wherein the type of data is determined by the bandwidth of the data.

11 to 13 (cancelled)

14. (currently amended)   A network management element capable of determining a condition of a ~~communications~~ packet backbone network and capable of communicating said condition with a call server connected to the network for use in a method of adapting a routing algorithm used by a the call server ~~connected to a communications network~~ for establishing a call connection across a packet network linking a first time division multiplexed (TDM) network to a second TDM network, the

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method comprising the steps of detecting a change in at least one condition of the
~~communications~~ packet backbone network; analyzing the change to determine
whether the routing algorithm requires adaptation to accommodate said change;
and, in the case of the routing algorithm requiring adaptation, providing an indication
of the required adaptation to the call server; and receiving the indication at the call
server and adapting the routing algorithm used by the call server in response to said
indication, the network management element being adapted to correlate information
received from ~~a~~ the packet backbone network relating to the condition of the network
with an instruction set comprising at least one informational element, each
informational element providing an instruction to a call server to modify at least one
of the characteristics of the call server so as to optimise the manner in which the call
server utilises the available resources of the packet backbone network.

15. (currently amended)   A call server adapted for use in a method of adapting a
routing algorithm used by the call server ~~connected to a communications network~~ for
establishing a call connection across a packet network linking a first time division
multiplexed (TDM) network to a second TDM network, the method comprising the
steps of: detecting a change in at least one condition of the ~~communications~~ packet
network; analyzing the change to determine whether the routing algorithm requires
adaptation to accommodate said change; and, in the case of the routing algorithm
requiring adaptation, providing an indication of the required adaptation to the call
server; and receiving the indication at the call server and adapting the routing
algorithm used by the call server in response to said indication, wherein the call
server includes:

    a receiving element for interfacing with said indication;

    an processing element for processing information provided by said indication;
and

    a routing algorithm adapting element for adapting said routing algorithm.

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16. (currently amended) A routing algorithm for a call server adapted for use in a method of adapting a routing algorithm used by a call server ~~connected to a~~ ~~communications network~~ for establishing a call connection across a packet network linking a first time division multiplexed (TDM) network to a second TDM network, the method comprising the steps of: detecting a change in at least one condition of the ~~communications~~ packet network; analyzing the change to determine whether the routing algorithm requires adaptation to accommodate said change; and, in the case of the routing algorithm requiring adaptation, providing an indication of the required adaptation to the call server; and receiving the indication at the call server and adapting the routing algorithm used by the call server in response to said indication, the routing algorithm operable in accordance with a set of rules which determine route selection over a communication network, at least one rule capable of being adapted in response to the call server receiving an indication relating to the adaptation of the said at least one rule.

17. (original) A routing algorithm as claimed in claim 16, wherein the rules may be adapted differently for different types of data.

18. (currently amended) A communication network having means to modify a characteristic of a call server for use in a method of adapting a routing algorithm used by ~~a~~ the call server ~~connected to a communications network~~ for establishing a call connection across a packet network linking a first time division multiplexed (TDM) network to a second TDM network, the method comprising the steps of: detecting a change in at least one condition of the ~~communications~~ packet network; analyzing the change to determine whether the routing algorithm requires adaptation to accommodate said change; and, in the case of the routing algorithm requiring adaptation, providing an indication of the required adaptation to the call server; and receiving the indication at the call server and adapting the routing algorithm used by the call server in response to said indication.

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